



TO: Pennsylvania Parole Board Members

FROM: Farrah Conjar
Executive Secretary II to the Chairperson

DATE: August 4, 2022

RE: Board Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2022

In compliance with *Act 175*, known as the *Sunshine Law*, effective September 17, 1976, the Office of Board Secretary provided notification to the public of the scheduled meeting on July 20, 2022 of the Pennsylvania Parole Board.

The public meeting convened at 9:00 AM at Riverfront Office Center in Harrisburg, PA with Chairperson Theodore Johnson presiding. A quorum of Board Members was present.

Attendance

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson Ted Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> BD Member Leo Dunn | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Tony Moscato |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BD Member Marcus Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Jim Fox | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Linda Rosenberg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Khadija Diggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Jack Daneri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BD Member Elizabeth Penna |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Robinson, Chief Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Carpenter, Board Secretary | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neil Malady, Policy/Legislative Affairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Woolf, Director – Office of Board Secretary | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Hearing Examiner Mike Potteiger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Treaster, Special Assistant | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan Davis, Assistant Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meghan Dade, SOAB Executive Director | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janaki Theivakumaran, SOAB Exec. Asst. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Estrella, Office of Victim Advocate | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Niko Dimitrakopoulos, Legal Intern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Manning, Deputy Chief Counsel DOC | |

Chairperson Johnson recognized public guests:
Mark Bergstrom, Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission

APPROVAL OF JUNE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Member Fox motioned to approve the June 15, 2022 Parole Board minutes. Board Member Diggs seconded the motion. The Parole Board unanimously approved the minutes.

OFFICE AND STAFF REPORTS

Office of Victim Advocate (OVA)

Victim Advocate Suzanne Estrella

- Received positive feedback on the first return of in person victim testimony.

Sexual Offenders Assessment Board (SOAB)

Executive Director Megan Dade

- Working closely with Field Services on hosting a specialized training for the parole agents who work with sex offender cases throughout the state. Training will be held October 20-21, 2022.
- Quarterly training Friday, September 30, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Robin Wilson who will present on sex offender assessments and treatment.

Communications/Media Report

Special Assistant Laura Treaster

- Working on projects and assisting senior staff as needed.

Policy and Legislative Affairs Report

Policy and Legislative Affairs Director Neil Malady

- House will be adjourned until September 12, 2022 and the Senate adjourned until September 19, 2022.

Office of Chief Counsel Report

Chief Counsel Alan Robinson

- Reported on the decision in the Henderson case, which was handled by former Parole Board Deputy Chief Counsel John Manning. The Parole Board won the case as the court ruled "cannot collaterally attack prison misconducts in matters involving the Board."

Office of Hearing Examiners Report

Chief Hearing Examiner Michael Potteiger

- Updated subpoena policy now includes the parole field supervision. When the field is requesting subpoenas, staff has to go through the hearing division for approval.
- Board Member Diggs asked where the inmate gets a subpoena. CHE Potteiger responded that the inmate goes through the institutional parole staff who then contacts the hearing division.

Board Secretary Report

Board Secretary Deb Carpenter

- The Commonwealth Budget passed with the amount of \$12.7 million for the Parole Board.

- Updated Board on the sex offender caseload issue at SCI Mercer. DOC is currently doing a comprehensive review of all the sex offender caseload at Mercer. After the review is completed, a plan of action will be discussed.
- Previous discussion regarding OVR going into facilities prior to parole interview and doing evaluations beforehand. This review is still with OVR's chain of command for approval.
- Working on Board Member/Hearing Examiner retreat in Erie in early October. Request was made for any agenda items to please email them to me. A good opportunity to have a joint discussion on the new guidelines.
- Brett Bucklen will be available to present on the recidivism report either at the August or September Board meeting.
- Updated the Board on the homicide review committee meeting.

Board Secretary Office Report

Board Secretary Office Director Scott Woolf

- The E361 will be put on hold until January 1, 2023 due to the new parole guidelines with the Sentencing Commission.
- Workgroup created with Sentencing Commission, PSDC IT and Board staff to gather requirement for implementation.
- Board requested staff to pursue the OnBase Mobile Application.

Mark Bergstrom would like to meet with decision makers to discuss recommitment ranges that were tabled for now. Also, would like the Board to review the report conducted by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing in response to HB 111 which asked for a thorough and comprehensive study on the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of violations of the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act of 1995 (VUFA).

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:37 AM Board Member Moscato made a motion to adjourn the public session. The motion was seconded by Board Member Diggs. The Board Members voted unanimously to adjourn the public session.